

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

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Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA

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THE MAROON TIGER

VOTED ONE OF NORTH AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGIATE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

Dixon supporters unite at state capitol



Marcus Dixon
Photo: (AP)

Jonathan Blocker

Early this month, legions of students gathered on the steps of the Georgia Capitol Building on Washington Street to challenge the Georgia judiciary system. Spurred by the recent conviction of Marcus Dixon, an African American high school student charged with statutory rape against one his white classmates, the veritable army claimed to campaign for the fate of African-Americans everywhere. Armed with posters, candles, signs, and strong

convictions, students from Atlanta, Savannah, Augusta and parts of Alabama were among the sea of some odd 500 protesters participating in the event. The demonstrators, surrounded by police in full riot gear, demanded the full restoration of Dixon's rights.

Sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Marcus Dixon Candlelight Vigil sought to serve as a last-ditch effort to sway the final decision of the Justices of the Court. The Georgia State Supreme Court has until June to

rule on Dixon's latest appeal.

Dixon originally went to court in 2003 for having sex with a white classmate three months shy of her 16th birthday. Dixon was convicted of misdemeanor statutory rape and aggravated child molestation on a technicality on May 23, 2003. He is currently serving a ten-year sentence at the Burruss Correctional Facility in Forsyth, GA.

It was the latter charge of aggravated child molestation that got Dixon a minimum sentence of 10 years without parole. According

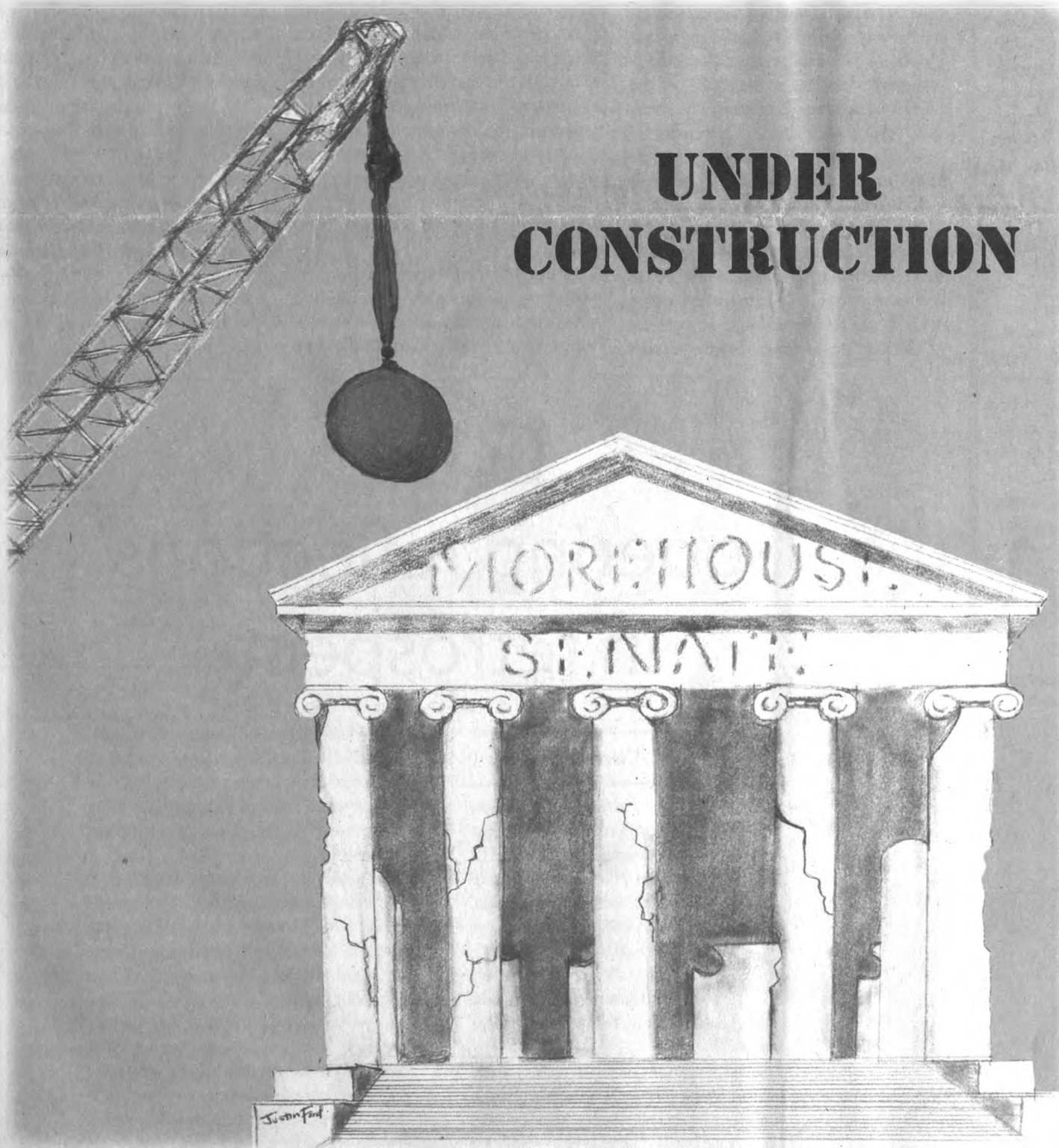
to the official "Help Marcus Dixon" website, Dixon is the only individual to have "ever been charged with child molestation of a classmate less than three years his or her junior."

It is this minimum sentencing law that the NAACP aimed to fight with the vigil.

"It is our hope that the Justices of the Court recognize the peaceful demonstration to end this travesty of justice," said Kwesi Mfume, current President and CEO of the NAACP. "We are not here to prove innocence, but to shine light •Please see **MFUME**, page 4

LEE'S GAMBLE

Senate president drafts new bill, students faced with possible constitutional amendment in upcoming election



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION: JUSTIN FORD AND JAMIE SWIFT

Nicholas Austin

A recent effort to improve the efficiency of the Morehouse Student Government Association's Senate has been the focal point of much controversy throughout the campus. The amendments to the SGA constitution proposed by a group of senate members spearheaded by Christopher Lee, Senate president and SGA vice-president, have met with staunch opposition from various sectors of the Senate.

The Morehouse SGA currently has 72 senate members. In the current system, any chartered organization has the ability to confirm a senator to the senate.

The proposed changes, however, would call for a cap of 26 total senate members. There would be five senators per class with each being elected by their respective classmates. The amendment would call for 6 at-large senators to be elected by the entire student body. Lee and others contend that this system would make the senate more accessible to the members of the Morehouse student body.

During the 2001-02 academic year, the senate body was comprised of approximately 58 senators. In 2002-03, this figure rose to approximately 67 senators. If the current trend continues, the senate is projected to have 77 members during the 2004-05 academic year. The increase in senators can be attributed to the rise in the number of chartered organizations on campus.

Many senators feel that 72 members are "ridiculous," especially when taking into consideration the fact that the University of Michigan's 35,000-student population has roughly 50 senators, Florida A&M University's 10,000-student population has 35 senators, and Florida State University's 25,000-student population has 70 senators. The Morehouse College student population is currently about 3,000 students.

Tyler Carlton, a Political Science major, feels that there is little or no communication between the average student at Morehouse and the Senate. "These people are supposed to work on behalf of the concerns of the general student body," •Please see **BILL**, page 4

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR THE SENATE

- Senate elected by class and student body, not by organization
- Membership set at 26 senators (5 per class, and 6 at-large)
- Senate staff to be appointed from outside the senate so senators can focus on business at hand

Tigers sneak a win past Panthers, 24-23

Kenneth Julian, III

24 to 23. No, Morehouse did not arbitrarily host a spring football game. And no, our basketball team didn't have a ridiculously off day. This was the scoreline from the Morehouse-Clark Atlanta baseball game held this past Sunday. To put this in perspective, the 47 total runs were more than Pittsburgh recently scored in the first round of the NCAA basketball tournament.

After two losses on Friday to Tuskegee

and two wins against CAU on Saturday, the Morehouse baseball team went out on Sunday hoping to end the weekend on a high against the CAU Panthers. The Tigers stood at 7-4 in the division (7-14 overall), looking to climb up the standings to catch Albany State, which currently sits atop the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference standings. They weren't the only ones climbing on this day, as balls kept getting caught in the strong winds, producing a total of ten home runs between the opponents.

•Please see **TIGERS**, page 8

Sex seminar a success, Rev. Norris supports abstinence before marriage

Herron Gomillion

"Is It Love, Lust, or Infatuation?"

That was the question asked at a seminar held in Clark Atlanta University's Davage auditorium on Thursday, March 18, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Lee A. Norris, Sr., spoke to over 100 students on how negative inter-personal relationships can be harmful to the AUC community.

The entire seminar was interactive. Periodically, Norris asked students to come up

to the microphone and ask questions about the etiquette of a relationship. Then, other students in the audience were invited to respond, allowing the students in the auditorium to freely exchange their opinions with one another.

Norris explained that infatuation is only blind love. He examined the idea of love at first sight and concluded that such feelings are purely superficial. "It's an old cliché, but it's true," said Norris. "You can't tell a book by its cover."

Norris defined lust as "the desire for something or someone without the regard of

the rights to the owner." Basing a relationship on lust, he said, may distort one's image of his or her partner. Furthermore, he advised that individuals should try to connect on a spiritual level to ensure that sex does not adversely affect the developing relationship. One thing that Norris suggested was that both partners should remain abstinent until marriage, effectively eliminating lust from the foundation of the relationship.

"Love," Norris clarified, "is an expression •Please see **NORRIS**, page 4



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The Maroon Tiger welcomes your views on any public issue. We routinely edit letters for space and correct errors in spelling and punctuation. Letters as well as commentaries must be 300 words or less, typed, signed and should include a full address and telephone number.

It's not easy
being green

Environmentally conscious initiatives in the human-built environment are no longer the exception; more often than not, such programs have become the norm in our daily lives. Our institution has also made strides in this direction, but at a pace that may not be as beneficial to the community as it could be. Though separating our trash and using recycled paper may be seen as satisfactory to many persons, it must be understood that a more proactive "green" policy by Morehouse could make our local environment that much safer.

Several considerations can be made to this end. Unfortunately, as so many of us know, the traffic in the Atlanta metropolitan area rivals that of the other major cities in this great nation of ours. The effects of such congestion are all too familiar in the AUC, starting in the afternoon, and peaking at around 5:00 p.m. An organized effort on the part of staff members, as well as the Office of Student Affairs, to create carpooling opportunities for faculty, staff, and students would be a welcome improvement to our air quality and ease of transit. If anything, the positive effect felt in the pocketbook for decreased use and maintenance of one's vehicle should be a

draw. The heavy use of paper for items such as flyers and newsletters distributed by the school administration and student organizations could also be handled in a more environmentally conscious manner. Publications such as Inside Morehouse could find their readership just as reliably if they made their newsletter available online; The Maroon Tiger has gone in the right direction in producing a viable online edition of its print, and has achieved a measure of success with it. At the very least, institutional policy should mandate that flyers should have a printed appeal to its readers to recycle upon finished use; the exclusive use of recycled paper should also be considered.

With the accelerating pace of technology enabling people to engage in more "green" behaviors with lowering cost, future priorities of Morehouse should include the construction of "green buildings" on our campus by employing low-impact materials, smart design, and more progressive energy sources. Even the source of electricity for the campus may be investigated for more energy-efficient methods of supply. Such moves to increase the opportunity for Morehouse to improve its earth-friendly practices, help everyone in the long run.

'... A more proactive "green" policy by Morehouse could make our local environment that much safer.'



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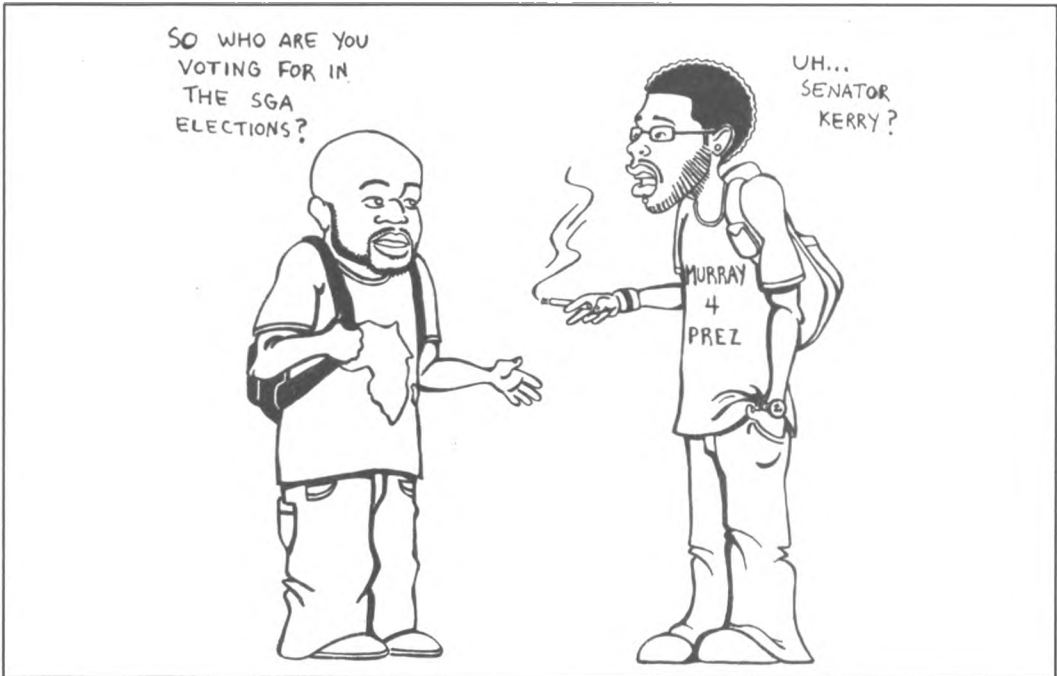
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Illustration by Jon Edwards



A few helpful suggestions for
this election season

Lloyd H. Johnson, II

As the nascent school election season begins, such events beg the question of just how sophisticated we are as an institution in the realm of politics. For all its efforts to be an organization truly inclusive of students in terms of participation and representation, it is very easy to be a student and not have a grasp of what they do, or see the fruits of their labor on a constant basis. It also often seems to be the case that the student government is only as good as its ostensible representatives – if those higher-ups aren't of a certain cachet, it is very easy for them to be ignored, along with their work. What then, can change the attitudes and motivations of our collective student government so that it may do more to truly govern the students it represents?

An obvious change may simply be a conceptual one. The phrase, "you are the Student Government Association" has been used often, possibly to give its hearers the sense of belongingness needed to throw their support one direction or the other. Not too many governments on a larger scale seem to make a claim that its people are the government – if anything, the government is there for them. In some sense, we have created government to do those things for us we have neither the time nor energy to do. We as citizens or members of states or groups create governing bodies

to do those things – think of what it would be like if the charge came to all 3,000 or so of us to make a homecoming appear from thin air. If those citizens or members want something changed, they would appeal to their elected representatives to create change in those parts of the government's agenda, or replace them. As such, our ideal governing body, democratically speaking, requires an intelligent, concerned electorate that knows what it wants, and an efficient, considerate government that has the wherewithal and influence to get those things done. To truly initiate this change would be a victory.

Morehouse as a *res publica* can also do things within the governmental organization to streamline it for the new era in which "shock and awe" capability is short of required by its constituents. One approach would be to shorten the number of hands initiatives have to pass through to find form. Though appointed staff members do a lot to make things happen, the proliferation of middlemen and associate staff members in previous administrations create unwanted bureaucracy. A conscious effort should be made by our executives to maximize their ability with people who are as enthusiastic and committed to the job of serving fellow students.

One method of improvement in our student government may take some time, but, if initiated correctly, may pay future dividends. If we were to streamline the ticket by making offices such

as Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary appointed offices, and making the office of Junior and Senior Board of Trustee one office that a student ran for annually, much could be achieved in the way of making the government more responsive. Making the offices of President and Vice President, as well as the new student Board of Trustee member – now a de facto ombudsman with more responsibility to student concerns – the offices where students make their vote count also makes those jobs more important. The elected executives may then appoint those persons that are the most qualified to fill those now appointed positions, whose previous elected power is not as collectively influential.

A final suggestion serves to save those persons running for SGA office money, or at least concentrate their resources. If a Presidential and Vice Presidential candidate ran together on the same platform in a joint candidacy resembling a 'party', more could be done to solidify the several messages and agendas being sent by those seeking office. It also makes sense for the President and Vice President to have a mutual understanding and stance on various issues serves to give an executive platform more viability and consistency, to serve the students the best way possible. These suggestions are but a means of making us think about what we want our student government to achieve, and what it may take to get us there – nothing more, nothing less.

G.D.I.
Sobering reflections
in retrospect

Timothy J. Cunningham

It's 3:30 a.m., February 9, 2003. Regardless of whatever happens, tonight is my last night as a Goddamn Interest (GDI). For almost eighteen months of my existence I have longed for fraternity membership. Between two Cerutti 1881s, charcoal and navy, I have attended four rushes and one interview. I can't do it anymore. There is nothing else I can do. It's been fun. I have partied. As I sit here halfway between being "thowed" and sobriety, I reflect.

During my sophomore year, I dragged my friends to every party I suspected was going to be attended by the Frat, whether hosted by Tech, GSU, or the Mo B chapter. I became involved and vied for leadership positions in campus organizations to better my application. I joined organizations that the Frat had held leadership positions in; some I was genuinely interested in and others I was not. Not to say that was such a bad thing. I enjoy what I do and I have weeded through the meaningless to find the fruitful. I have no complaints.

What makes a good brother good puzzles me daily. I have nice white teeth, a strong back and strong hands.

Who could ask for more?

I am a good man, a good brother. And now that I realize that, I am able to accept the outcome either way. I did not make it with my first attempt, and justified it through my age, maturity level, and the number of friends that I had in the Frat. I was let down softly the first time; I was saved the shame of waiting by the phone for an interview or something better. I was told that I was too young. I took it in stride, and surprisingly, I did not die; I awoke the next morning, ready to go at it again. It was cool. I resisted and hesitated, but my drive to try again finally triumphed. College was the first time in

my life that I'd received the letters with one sheet, instead of multiples I'd grown accustomed to, and I was starting to set a precedent. But I took it all in stride. This was no longer the Student Government elections of old, or the National Honor Society.

At this point, I don't know where I stand. No one man ever really knows where he stands in this game. Membership in the world's only fraternity is something that I want as bad as my Morehouse College diploma (well, without sacrificing the latter).

As an upperclassman, to my younger brothers, I advise: Do not sacrifice your education in an attempt to gain the acceptance of your peer group. Once you leave these hallowed grounds you will have to be accepted by the greater society, a society that includes white men and Asian women who have never heard of Alpha, Kappa, Iota, Sigma, or Omega.

From the beginning to the end of my sojourn, from September 11, 2001, to the present, I have met some pretty good men. Frats have some pretty good brothers.

I must reiterate, Frats have some pretty good brothers, but so does the rest of Morehouse.

So as you wait along the outskirts of the campus, parking lots and the post office, remember that the man you introduce yourself to was once in the same position as you.

He put on his best suit, got a fresh cut, and had his shoes polished in an attempt to impress his peers in Sale Hall Chapel.

And it worked.

For you it may work too; but for those for whom it does not work, you are no less a man without gold, crimson, purple, or blue. No less a man if all you don is maroon and white.

During the time that you are not lurking along Brown Street or the shadows of King Chapel, holler at an upperclassman not in the Frat, in the cafeteria or the post office.

Get to know him.

Comment

The state and marriage: an unholy union

Ellen Hunter

The Democrats have got their heads in their asses on the issue of gay marriage. Democrats know that much of the electorate is receptive to the idea of “civil unions,” yet the country opposes gay “marriage” by a resounding two-to-one majority. Walking the semantic tightrope between supporting “unions,” gay rights, but not exactly gay “marriage,” makes Dean, Kerry, Lieberman and the rest look like an inconsiderate bunch of poll-driven followers. Today’s discourse lacks political savvy and rational ideas, so here’s one resolution to the issue of gay marriage for Democrats willing to engage in something that’s fresher, fairer and feasible.

The government should call every state-recognized partnership (between man and woman, man and man or woman and woman) exactly what it is, a civil union, leaving marriage to the church’s own definition. State-recognized “marriage,” although it connotes religion, is wholly separate from religion, both in constitutional theory and in practice.

The state encourages certain relationships, by providing recognition and tangible benefits like tax incentives and death benefits, for the state’s purpose of maintaining order in our society.

We ignore, mold or finagle this separation, but the issue of gay marriage demands that we are up front about the fact that the church’s definition of marriage is not the state’s. By calling what the state recognizes a “civil union” and granting churches the exclusive right to define “marriage,” we can dismantle unfounded religious associations to state action, provide legal equality for homosexual couples and preserve the religious sanctity of marriage.

The feasibility of eliminating the term “marriage” at the government level may seem questionable. But politics is perception, as Michael Douglas’ title character reminds us in our generation’s greatest masterpiece of political philosophy, “The American President.” Framed properly, this position could be sold to religious zealots and gay rights activists alike.

For the staunchest member of the religious right, the state’s conception of marriage as a social issue apart from religion is hardly con-

testable. If state-recognized marriages were deeply religious, then the state would not allow actions that destroy the sanctity of marriage, i.e. pre-marital sex, divorce, interracial marriage or birth control, as some have argued. Opponents to gay marriage on religious grounds should realize the state has already destroyed the religious sanctity of marriage. Good thing the state does not recognize “baptisms” and “confirmations,” otherwise, it might destroy the religious sanctity of these as well.

In fact, if the government unrecognized marriage, the so-called religious sanctity of marriage could be restored. To get “married,” I would have to see my priest, and without the state’s interference, my church alone will have the right to determine eligibility for “marriage.” Who among religious zealots opposes granting more rights to the church?

The idea of calling all state-recognized partnerships “civil unions” could also be sold to gay rights activists. Their concern is not so much that gays should be allowed to “marry,” as that gays should be recognized as equal before the law.

Mission accomplished, if heterosexuals and homosexuals have equal access to “civil unions,” the only official state recognition of partnerships and the benefits thereof.

The polls suggest the issue of gay marriage is largely semantic, and that assumption underlies this position. But, it’s possible my solution, clever as it may be, would fail. If something else drives public opinion on “marriage” and “civil unions,” such as a desire to have a state designation for heterosexuals that is superior to the designation for homosexuals, then this issue is much sadder and less negotiable.

I think the polls show that gay marriage is a politically difficult issue because it’s wrapped in religious ideals. That doesn’t mean the issue is irresolvable or constrained by how the debate has been framed to this point.

I would like to challenge the boldest and most politically adept leader among the Democratic contenders to diffuse the issue of gay marriage by unpacking it and leaving responsibility for designating all “marriage” to the church.

Ellen Hunter is a senior political science concentrator at Brown University.

This editorial was previously published in The Brown Daily Herald, the student newspaper at Brown University.

Un-intelligent design

E. Joseph Addison

On Tuesday, the state school board of Ohio approved a new lesson plan that allows teaching elements of creation theory to students. Really, this isn’t a joke. Dammit, Europe, stop laughing at us. Canada, don’t you start.

Ok, so it was only last month that Georgia’s Board of Education approved the use of the word “evolution” during science class. This decision came in response to a movement, largely led by morons, to replace the word “evolution” with the phrase “biological changes over time.”

Ah nuts, now I’m laughing too.

But maybe I shouldn’t be. This is, after all, very serious stuff.

I’m not so worried about this new “curriculum” actually surviving the Ohio courts - groups of educated people are lining up to challenge it - as I am that the renewed creation v. evolution debate might signal that something ugly is happening to America.

The Ohio board decision isn’t really about science, just like the gay marriage debate isn’t really about homosexuals and the abortion debate isn’t really about murder of the unborn. These debates are about religion; specifically, the Ol’ Tes’tment, angry God, fire and brimstone, wrath, humanity is wicked and the world is about to end variety that the Christian Reich preaches.

And don’t even try to consider all the religious implications in our support of Israel and our ongoing crusade in the Middle East.

Members of the Christian Reich want us to honor their God in their way, and they’re willing to go to any length to ensure we do.

Many of these people believe that we are inherently evil and our souls need saving. Science, the idea that women should control their own bodies, and the belief that consenting adults should be allowed the freedom to do whomever they want to do are merely tricks the devil uses to lead us astray.

Satan is a humanist, God is not. Never mind there is no evidence either one actually exists.

God knows what is good for us and he only shares this knowledge with men like Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell and George W. Bush, so we should trust them and have faith in their agenda.

But the liberal and progressive communities (read: people who can think) are gearing up

for a fight.

It promises to be quite a battle - a culture war of Biblical proportions.

Problem is that nobody on the progressive side seems ready to admit that this debate is about more than clash between conservative and liberal philosophy. That’s why we’re losing.

Of course the cultural divide is about religion! It’s more prominent than J-Lo’s ass.

Conservatives are sneaky. Liberals are cowards.

Conservatives use euphemisms like Intelligent Design. Liberals are afraid to ask, “Designed by whom?”

Conservatives talk about the sanctity of marriage. Again, liberals don’t ask, “Sanctified by whom?”

Conservatives say that the destruction of an embryo is synonymous with murder. Liberals don’t ask, “Why?”

Asking these questions would force the Christian Reich to acknowledge that a very frightening, specific view of God is behind its every initiative.

Not asking these questions gives the conservative fringe a free pass to complicate policy debates by injecting religious dogma into the issues.

It’s understandable why leftists are afraid to call the Christian fringe out and strip these issues down to their religious cores: The left is afraid that this would alienate the moderate Americans they’re trying to win over.

But this fear is unjustified. Truth is, just like the vast majority of moderate Americans, most leftists also believe in God. Most leftists consider their spiritual beliefs to be central to how they lead their lives - that’s why they oppose the Christian Reich’s consistent attempts to force its religious views on the rest of America.

If the left would merely ask the questions, America would quickly find itself in a debate about religion and the nature of God. The right would come off as paranoid religious fanatics. Moderate Americans would see this, flip, and side with the left. Soon, there would be no opposition to a woman’s right to choose, gay marriage, or the theory of evolution.

Sadly, the left hasn’t realized this, so its tactics remain as unintelligently designed as the curriculum of a science class in Ohio.

E. Joseph Addison is the Voice editor for the South End, the student newspaper at Wayne State University.

Senate gets an extreme makeover

Christopher E. Lee

As time passes things age, grow older, and need to be updated. Society has gone from the abacus to the personal computer, horse and carriage to the automobile, and cavern dwellings to massive brick homes. It is time to revamp our Student Senate. For years we have been requesting a more efficient legislative body. Our voices have been heard. During its regular assembly the Senate passed the Senate Restructuring Plan of 2004 by a 3-to-1 margin. The plan is a move toward a more efficient and effective legislature. The plan is not designed to be punitive towards the current senators, for they have made honorable strides, such as demonstrating fiscal responsibility by capping the Homecoming Appropriations Bill of 2003.

Under the current structure of the Senate, senators are chosen by each chartered organization with each chartered organization’s president serving as a nonvoting member of the Senate. This structure is not the most efficient method that can be implemented. We currently face a situation in which Senate membership numbers fluctuate from year to year and business of the senate of the student body cannot begin until mid-September at the earliest because of the wait for organizations to be chartered. Moreover, approximately two-thirds of the senate cannot serve on any committee because of the way the system is set up, and the structure promotes self-interest rather than the interests of the greater good for the student body. It is these attributes themselves that reduce the Senate’s efficiency and effectiveness.

The New Senate includes facets such as a membership cap at twenty-six senators. Each class shall elect five senators, and the student body shall elect six at-large senators. Twenty-six was chosen for the senate population because there are currently five committees, each of which are comprised of five senators, and a President Pro Tempore, who does not explicitly serve on one committee, is required. In addition, there shall be a Council of Presidents, which shall be comprised of the presidents of chartered organizations, who shall remain as nonvoting members in order to ensure that organizations have a voice in governance of the student body.

Hours of research went into developing a New Senate. Various senates from around the country were studied, ranging from the University of Michigan to the University of the South (Sewanee). None of the aspects in the plan are arbitrary, and a variety of options were considered. Also, other alternatives to the current structure were considered such as simply capping Senate membership, implementing a bicameral system, and combining the current senate structure with the new plan. Those ideas were analyzed and found to not be the most efficient for Morehouse College. While I will be the first to admit that the New Senate is not the perfect collegiate legislature, I believe it is far better than the current system, and it is taking a step in the right direction. The longest journey begins with a single step; and if we are to ever progress, then we must be willing to take that one step.

Christopher E. Lee ’05 currently serves as the Student Government Association vice president.

undergroundlive



“Spring Break” by Robert Gaines

“You’ll get some lady who was selling teapots and baby clothes and all of a sudden she’s an electronics kingpin.”

- - Brad Celmainis, an eBay member who regularly looks for online fraud.

quote of the week

Bill oppossers believe that smaller organizations will lose their voice in the Senate

—Story continued from page 1—

he declared, “yet it seems their sole concerns are homecoming appropriation, not the issues affecting our years at this college.”

Tyler Carlton is not alone is his criticism of the Morehouse Senate’s status quo. Junior Psychology major Ranard Caldwell feels that the Morehouse Senate “has become a bank and does not support student advocacy.” With the senate serving as the primary student vein for homecoming resources, many senators spend large amounts of time garnering these funds rather than championing causes.

Demond Drummer, President of the Morehouse Chapter of the NAACP, points to the fact “you can create an organization, name yourself senator then engage yourself in making important decisions for the student body.” Drummer feels that this type of activity is unfair to the general student body. Drummer further advocates that “the new system ensures that every senator is elected, which is not necessarily the case in the current system.”

It is the hope of Christopher Lee that the new amendments will curb this negative perception of the senate. According to Lee “70 to 75 percent of current senators do not serve on any student committees.”

On the other hand, NAACP senator Shawn Adolphus feels that this realignment is a step in the wrong direction. Adolphus contends that “the proposed bill does not acutely define how student organizations would receive their money.” Senator Brandon Tongé thinks it’s a step in the right direction, but warns that “we must be careful not to take the voice away from the common student or smaller organizations.”

Although the restructuring of the Senate is the primary issue in the new amendment plans, it is not the sole issue being addressed. The proposed amendments also seek to raise the GPA requirement for SGA office holders from 2.60 to 2.70.

The Morehouse Freshmen class currently votes for the offices of Freshman President, Senator, Student Justice, and Residence Hall Presidents. Under the new amendments, the Freshmen class would be required to elect the offices of Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary as well.

The amendment would also allow rising sophomores to be eligible to seek the office of SGA Treasurer.

The amendments will be up for ratification by the general student body during the April election season.

The general student body will vote on this amendment next month.

Mfume: ‘We are here...to shine light on the misapplication of Georgia Law.’

—Story continued from page 1—

on the misapplication of Georgia Law.”

Dixon’s adoptive family emphasized the importance of the vigil. His adoptive mother, Peri Jones, was overwhelmed by the popular support for her son’s case. “Everytime I get down, I pray; and every time I get up someone is there to help with a new idea.”

Casey Jones, Dixon’s brother, is weary from the incessant struggle and just wants his brother released, his record cleared, and his life returned. “Everyone makes mistakes,” stressed Jones. “People shouldn’t crucify others for making them.”

Dixon’s childhood friend Josh Pilgrim expressed his gratitude for everyone’s love and support. Having gone to school, hung out, and played sports with Dixon, Pilgrim said that he sees the real Marcus, separate from the all the media portrayal. Touching on the spirit of unity forged in the fight for Dixon’s freedom, Pilgrim exclaimed to a standing ovation, “It doesn’t matter whether they’re Black, White, Pink, or Polk-a-Dot, as long as their shooting in the same direction as us.”

Many students, while identifying with Marcus’ plight, lamented the general consciousness in the Black community concerning important issues. Jessica Brown, a sophomore Biology major from Spelman

College, noted that “the AUC has a ‘Do You’ mentality and that’s really sad. I still have to explain to people who Marcus Dixon is.”

Broderick Turner, a senior at Emory University, blamed the inaction of blacks for the current tragedy. “In the end, it becomes a question of getting people to the polls that will represent our interest and agenda.”

Chirs Bazemore, a government worker who decided to protest after hearing a radio announcement, thought the rally reminded people that “life is about more than just ourselves, it is about the community...we need more of this stuff going on if things are to ever change.”

Other activists attempted to use the rally as a way of educating future generations. Howard Smith, an Atlanta area worker and father of two came, out to let his children understand the “importance of community activism.” He wanted to show his two young sons that “the fight for legal equality in America is no where near from finished.”

With Alisha Thomas (Cobb County, District 33) and other notable local politicians singing along, the Clark Atlanta University Gospel Choir roused the crowd with their renditions of “Swing Low Sweet Chariot” and other gospel classics.

Norris: ‘Love is an expression of appreciation for another.’

—Story continued from page 1—

of appreciation for another.”

Norris named the two most important factors in love as honesty and respect.

Wendy Golden, a senior at Clark Atlanta University, agreed. “Without those, there is no love.”

Norris’s interest in love and lust has been largely honed through his own personal experiences. After leaving the AUC to go to the University of Michigan in 1972, he started to research love, lust, and infatuation as part of his personal decision to stop deceiving women.

For seven years, he didn’t tell a woman, “I love you.” Only when he found the one he truly loved, and married her, did he say “those magic words.”

Many students in the audience came away highly touched by Norris’s message.

Morehouse student Jean Augustine found the seminar informative.

“Rev. Norris covered some pressing issues about love and lust that are unclear among today’s youth,” he stated.

“I believe he covered them fully and he gave me a fuller understanding of love and lust.”

As a follow-up to this seminar, there is another discussion, entitled “7 Basic Needs of a Man and 7 Basic Needs of a Woman,” scheduled in the coming weeks.

Details about time and place will be posted throughout the campus.

On the Record with Bakari Sellers

by Christian Nwachukwu, Jr. ‘04



Photo: Joseph S. Carlos

Bakari Sellers is a junior African American studies major from Denmark, SC. Sellers is an avid supporter of Morehouse College athletics and a founding member of the Forbes Fanatics. He currently serves as the president of the junior class, 2003-04.

Who are the Forbes Fanatics?

A Forbes Fanatic is somebody who comes, night in and night out, to support the Morehouse basketball team. We wear the Maroon and White very proudly, we jump and scream and yell and we do everything needed to propel our team to victory. We love our school and our basketball team.

How will you measure the success of your tenure as class president?

I think first semester, we did pretty well, we had a lot of different class activities. And this year, my goal was to give the members of the junior class something to participate in; tried to give them activities a couple of times a month, we tried to have a junior class party—we pulled that off not once, but twice. And this semester we have a junior week planned for March 22-28 and during that week we’re going to paint the campus red and we’re going to have a good time, and it’s going to be our first real successful junior week, so I’m looking forward to that. I think I’ve been pretty successful, but it’s all attributed to the people I work with.

What is the most profound thing someone said to you and who said it?

My father always reminded me to study my history and to learn from those who came before. To learn

from those like Stokely Carmichael, learn from those like Angela Davis. I’ve learned a lot from him and watching him work. I just try to learn my history and study those who came before.

If you had to reduce your philosophy for life to one word, what would that word be and why?

Success. I feel that I have no option but to succeed. My parents have provided me with the foundation for success; my sister’s a doctor, my brother works for IBM, they’ve both succeeded in my eyes and I just have no option but to succeed.

Who is your favorite or most admired political figure?

That’s a tough one; I’d probably have to say Jim Clyburn. It’s kind of rare; I don’t think too many people would say Jim Clyburn. But, I had a chance to work for him and he was the highest ranking official ever in the democratic party—he served as vice chair for the Democratic Caucus. He’s very soft-spoken and doesn’t say a lot, but when he speaks, people listen. And he’s a leader and people follow him and he’s very well-respected in his home state of South Carolina. And he’s very personable, he speaks to everybody, no matter who you are and he treats everybody equally with the same amount of respect. So, I learned a great deal from him.

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OUR WORLD

■Pakistan steps up anti-terrorist efforts

Pakistani troops have launched a major battle to combat terrorists attempting to cross the border. At least eight soldiers and 24 suspected Taliban and al-Qaeda militants were killed last Tuesday in what became a very bloody gun battle, the fiercest conflict between the two forces since October of last year.

■Kenya braces for constitutional crisis

Kenya may have to wait even longer than anticipated before a new constitution is ratified. Recently, various delegates to Kenya's government voted in favor of creating a Prime Minister in addition to the position of President currently held by Mwai Kibaki as a means of creating a more even power balance in the country. However, members of the ruling party, as well as the Liberal Democratic Party, now face challenges going forward as Kenya's government recently withdrew from constitutional talks.

■Chavez rejects new Haitian government

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has declared that he would not recognize the new Haitian government. Chavez said he would also grant ousted leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide refuge in Venezuela. In a similar move, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the country currently playing host to the former Haitian leader said that it, too, would not recognize the new Haitian government, at least until after the scheduled regional summit of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) that will take place next week.

■France on terror alert

A dissident group known as the Servants of Allah, the Powerful and Wise One recently sent a message via the *Le Parisien* newspaper, threatening to attack France. French Prime Minister Pierre Raffarin has acknowledged the letter, and experts are currently analyzing the validity of the threat.

■Taiwan prepares for historic election

An estimated 200,000 Taiwanese people are heading home to vote in upcoming elections this Saturday. The election promises to be a historic one, especially since hostilities between China and Taiwan remain fairly high today. Many Chinese still see Taiwan as a renegade breakaway province.

Putin's reelection creates murky future

John Thomas

Many political pundits argue that the March 14 reelection of Russian Premier Vladimir Putin continues a path towards power concentration that could prove dangerous to Russia in the future. Putin, who carried 71 percent of the vote, ran virtually unopposed, with most of his opponents polling in the single digits. The interesting exception was Nikolai Kharitonov, the Communist party candidate, who garnered 13.7 percent of the vote. The Communist Party's performance, however, is not an indicator of its resurgence, but rather of a strong nucleus of die-hards who are unsatisfied with a capitalist Russia. Concentration of Russian power in Putin's hands looks even certain after examining other parts of the Russian government. The United Russia Party—staunch supporters of Putin—control 222 of the 450 seats in the Russian Parliament (Duma). Putin's recently appointed Prime

Minister, Mikhail Fradkov, appears to be an unassuming bureaucrat willing to do the bidding of the Premier. Putin has also shuffled the cabinet departments, merging various departments to create "super ministries". The level of power controlled by Putin is not an anomaly, given Russia's historical tendency to favor strong leaders backed by powerful elite. In this new era of democracy, however, this high degree of power placed in Putin's hands makes it difficult for an opposing view to be heard. Whatever the government does—good or bad—meets with little challenge. For now, this power has enabled Putin to enact much-needed reforms in the Russian energy industry and combat organized crime. Yet this continuing monopolization of power could bode ill for Russia under a different premier. Time will tell whether the still-young Russian democracy will establish the civil society and checks and balances necessary for a stable democracy.

Life in the People's Republic

Ronald Newman

In discussing the People's Republic of China (PRC), one could simply focus on the themes capturing mainstream headlines. China's economy has grown annually at a rate of around 10 percent for the past 20 years, an extraordinary growth record for a transitioning Communist state. The PRC also recently sent a man into space, becoming only the third country to accomplish that feat. In 2008, the country and its people will welcome the world to Beijing for the Summer Olympics, and China's accession into the WTO is forever changing global trade dynamics. One could also address the burgeoning Westernization of China. After years of isolationism and rejection of the West, McDonald's and Starbucks are capturing ever greater shares of the market. China is gradually adapting to the capitalist, market-oriented economic model trumpeted by Western ideologues and learning to manage the accompanying social ills and wealth disparities. Popular culture is also changing, as Chinese youth are listening to 50 Cent and Norah Jones with increasing regularity. Living in the People's Republic, however, I've found find that China is much deeper than the aforementioned soundbites. There are interesting things about China that aren't economic in nature and that aren't intriguing to the sensationalist sensibilities of Western

news. There are things about China that haven't been universally adopted, characteristics without readily available comparables. There is something different and amazing about life in China that makes this a remarkable place to live. For instance, though cars are becoming more prevalent, most Chinese people still have bikes. It continually amazes me to approach my apartment complex and see hundreds of bikes parked outside. And the food, albeit delicious and insanely cheap, is truly an adventure. Cuisine in China is region-specific. The Chinese phrase, "nan tian bei xian, dong la xi suan," essentially means that food in the South is sweet; Northern food is salty; Eastern food is hot; and Western food is sour. Entering different types of Chinese restaurants typically results in selecting from entirely different menus. Moreover, the Chinese simply eat animals we don't eat and parts of the animals we tend to throw away. Interpersonal communication dynamics in China are also quite unique. As a Morehouse man accustomed to approaching every unknown and seemingly eligible female, the unwillingness of the Chinese male, steeped in traditional values, to even consider talking to a female he would view as a "stranger" is interesting. Sitting on academic panels discussing cultural differences, I've yet to deliver a good explanation. Additionally, the Chinese possess this fascinating duality that allows them to be at once proud, bordering on arrogant, of China and being Chinese, yet unabashedly deferential in day-to-day interactions. The PRC is also extremely homogeneous. Everybody, except for me and this Italian girl upstairs, is Han Chinese. Although the situation is changing, especially in cities like Beijing, the somewhat perplexed, yet unflinching stares frequently draw a laugh from me. I've yet to determine if I feel flattered or just confused when asked to take a picture with some native Chinese person's child. As my Chinese language skills grow stronger, I am developing the types of relationships that will help me understand the relative absence in Chinese personalities of individualism and its ugly side effects. Moreover, I'm gaining greater insight into the concept of "losing face," which prevents my cab driver from simply admitting that he doesn't know where he is going. In the meantime, I will continue to stock up on DVDs, which cost slightly more than a dollar here, and hang my clothes on the balcony because the environmentally conscious Chinese don't have dryers in their homes. Best wishes from China. Ronald Newman graduated from Morehouse College in 2001. His brother, Marcus, currently serves as the World and Local News Editor at the Maroon Tiger.

Science and Spiritual Awareness Week
March 28, 2004 - April 4, 2004

- Sunday, March 28, 2004
- 11:00AM - Opening Service at Martin Luther King Interdenominational
- Monday, March 29, 2004
- 12:00PM - "The Relation between Quantum Physics, Spirituality and the Soul" Luncheon Lecture/Slideshow with Dr. Casey Blood speaking
 - 6:00PM - Jesus and the Science and Spiritual Awareness Theme
- Student Supper Lectures with various presenters
- Tuesday, March 30, 2004
- 7:00PM - Steven Leper and IAEWP evening presentations
- Wednesday, March 31, 2004
- 9:00AM - Presentation/Discussion on the role of the U.N. in international affairs
 - 2:00PM - Presentation/Discussion on global environmental governance
- Presenters: Terrence Paupp and Michael Whitty
- 5:30PM - Panel Presentation on Health, Housing, and Human Rights
- Thursday, April 1, 2004
- 11:00AM - Sponsored Crown Forum
- Bishop John Shelby Spong, Preaching
- 2:30 PM - Panel Presentation on "Religion, Spirituality, and the Realization of Peace"
- Friday, April 2, 2004
- 9:00AM - Presentation on "Human Development Report-2003"
 - 11:00AM - Peace by Peace Festival (on Welborn Street)
 - 1:15PM - Presentation on International Criminal Court
- Presenters: David Gespass, Ward Churchill, Andrew Kelley, Terrence Paupp, Walter Gulick, and Charles Mercieca
- 3:45PM - Presentation on Reparations and the Moral Mandate of Apology
- Saturday, April 3, 2004
- 9:00AM - Peace by Peace Festival (on Welborn Street)
 - 9:00AM - Presentation on Control and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
 - 1:15PM - "John F. Kennedy's Strategy of Peace: First, Vietnam ..."
 - 2:30PM - Presentation on the Formal Opposition to the USA Patriot Act
- Presenters: David Gespass, Pravin Kamdar, Terrence Paupp, Jay Krishnan, and Mark Zepezauer
- 6:00PM - Inter-Faith Assembly and Presentation of Awards
- Sunday, April 4, 2004
- 11:00AM - Closing Joint Service for A Season of Non-Violence
- Preaching: Rev. John Strickland
- 12:00PM - Peace by Peace Festival (on Welborn Street)

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CROSS INTO THE BLUE

Latavia can keep her secret

Miltonette Craig

For weeks, the AUC has been covered with green posters and handbills advertising *Latavia's Secret*, the latest AUC drama production scheduled for March 19 and 20 in King Chapel. The cast and crew promoted at Hump Wednesday and Market Friday, and the play even has a website (<http://www.lataviasscret.com>). Unfortunately, the caliber of publicity for the production was much better than the actual quality of the play.

Latavia's Secret is about a young and successful Black businesswoman, Latavia (A. Chanel Atkins) who believes that her life is as close to perfect as it can be; she has two great best friends (Denise and Quan, played by Danielle Drummond and John Reed II, respectively), she's about to become a junior partner of her firm, and she's in a successful relationship with a rising football star, Jeremy (Ira Hill). However,

her life-altering "secret" (the fact that she is HIV positive) is crucially hindering her journey to perfection. On a positive note, the scenery of the play was extremely well designed. The plot was intriguing, and it definitely had the potential to be an intense and thought-provoking piece. Nevertheless, mediocre acting by the lead characters and obvious disorganization prevented the play's success.

First and foremost, the idea of having pre-show entertainment was very creative, but a pre-show should never be so drawn-out that it causes the audience to become restless. The mini-concert by Janelle Mon   was pleasing in the beginning, but since there were two performances before hers, I felt like I was at *Showtime at the Apollo*, as opposed to a theatrical production. Furthermore, in such a small cast, every actor *must* be outstanding in the play – *especially* the leads, but this was not the case in *Latavia's Secret*. Ira Hill's

performance was languid and unenthusiastic. Atkins' was weak – her voice was monotonous and oddly sensual, sounding more like a phone sex operator than a businesswoman. Also, the puzzled looks she gave the audience when she forgot her lines were just unacceptable.

The shipwreck of *Latavia's Secret* was barely salvaged by the supporting actors. I give kudos to Denise for her poise, realism, and true emotion, and I compliment John Reed and Kevin Peters for their exceptional sense of humor and genuine talent. The three should be commended for making the best of a bad situation.

In short, *Latavia's Secret* would be best suited for an episode of *When Good Ideas Go Wrong*. It was an interesting concept (attempting to raise the HIV/AIDS awareness of the AUC) with a poor delivery.

You know what Latavia's real secret is? She can't act.

City of God packs some in-your-face realism

Barry Debrow

City of God is a shocking mix of style and realism. Director Fernando Meirelles's eye-opening film takes you inside the poverty-stricken streets of Sao Paulo, Brazil, where residents cower in fear as gangs of brutal teenagers run the neighborhood drug trade. While watching his peers succumb to the seduction of crime, violence, and drugs, one young man determines to break free and become a professional photographer. This dramatic true story darts from one brutal murder to the next, employing urgent camera-work that constantly keeps everything in your face. Most of the actors are unknowns, which lends to the movie's raw, gritty finish. It's so ugly, mean and

harsh, you'll want to shield your eyes. The only problem is, it's so good, you won't be able to.

This film is truly a phenomenal work. The only setback for some moviegoers is the fact that the movie is not in English. I told myself for the first ten minutes of the movie that I was going to leave because I could not handle reading for two hours, but soon afterwards I found myself so captivated by the movie that leaving was no longer an option. The characters reflect a harsh reality that kept me on the edge of my seat. The movie is rich symbolism and irony. If you're looking looking for an action-packed film with a good and very real plot, then this is the movie for you. I rank *City of God* up there with some of my favorite movies of all time. This is one movie you gotta see.

J-Kwest blends raw skill with raw message

Barry Debrow

"Secular mindset with a spiritual vision" – an accurate self-proclamation by gospel hip-hop artist J-Kwest. J-Kwest, a.k.a. King Scholar Julian DeShazier, has completed his album entitled *Feed the Kids Mixtape 2004*, which is overall an impressive debut.

He delivers a 17-track album packed with alluring beats, thought-provoking and passionate lyrics, and a tight flow.

The album opens up with "Come With Me," a catchy introduction/invitation to the *Feed the Kids* journey in which J-Kwest rhymes about his calling to do gospel rap and gives a few important shout-outs.

The greatest aspect of the album is its ability to achieve a high level of diversity in subject matter while still retaining its religious perspective. "All the Time," "Organic Innasense," and "Spread Love" are the smooth, mellow tracks, reminiscent of neo-soul rhythms. "Kwestions" and "Fallen Angels" are just two of the mentally and spiritually stimulating tunes

that cover topics ranging from the September 11 attacks and reparations to pre-marital sex and AIDS. Fellow gospel rap artist Breeveazie makes the album all the more enjoyable with his intense energy and super-fast lyrics. "Verbal Kwest" and "Something to Prove" (my personal favorite) especially exhibit both J-Kwest's and Breeveazie's best floetic talents.

Guaranteed repeat-worthy tracks on *Feed the Kids* include "Is You Ready," a vigorous freestyle to the Youngbloodz "Damn" beat, and "Beef," a no frills, no hook, unadulterated, a cappella rhyme which is sure to raise the consciousness of young people, especially within the AUC: "beef is putting more black men behind bars/build a new prison every week, do the math/and then hire the company to cook the food in the caf."

Feed the Kids is truly entertaining from start to finish, especially to those who are looking for more substance, and skill, in their choice of hip-hop music. And if you're a fan of *Feed the Kids*, be sure to look out for Breeveazie's upcoming debut, *Solid Food*.

Congratulations
to Christian Nwachukwu
and staff for being voted
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Signed,
Shaun A. Spearmon, Editor-In-Chief (2000 - 2001)
James A. Britton, Editor-In-Chief (2002 - 2003)

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A school of spendthrifts

Daryl Hannah

The campus mailbox. A seemingly harmless entity, playing the role of hotel for correspondences and greeting cards from family members, giving lodging to the latest issues of *TV Guide*, *Maxim*, and *Sports Illustrated*, allowing anxious seniors to letters from graduate schools that will dictate their futures...

But your mailbox in Robert Hall has a dark side too.

It is a den of corruption and a cave of spleen. It can sting you with a venom so vicious and so diabolic as to leave you screaming for mercy after ravaging your body, your mind, and your... pocket.

Your mailbox, in short, is the means by which the evil credit card companies get their

applications to you.

Why do the companies prey on the young, the innocent, the college-aged?

Because we spend money like crazy.

As the time rolls around for the disbursement of refund checks, students don't think of buying a couple extra reference books for that difficult class, nor do they decide to hide the money away in a bank account for rainy days. Talks of buying Louis Vuitton handbags, Burberry bow ties, and Lactose polo shirts plague the campus, replacing conversations of book buying and saving.

But what happens during the rest of the year, when no refund checks are to be had, but the bills still come pouring in with soldierly regularity?

Do students enjoy an annual splurge and

then return to an air of general thriftiness?

Given the facts that it costs roughly \$20,000 per annum to attend Morehouse and that 98 percent of the student population is on some form of financial support—loans, grants, scholarships, fellowships—one might assume that leisure money is a premium for the average college student of 830 Westview Drive. But the evidence of one's eyes seems to suggest differently.

Dressed in an outfit which cost, according to Nautica and Timberland websites, approximately \$500, an anonymous student explains his financial situation: "My family does not have the money to pay for my college education, so we have taken out loans to cover the balance left from my scholarships.

"And because it's cheaper to live off-

campus, I also request extra money to pay my rent for the semester and do some shopping."

According to a recent survey of fifty students conducted on campus, 90 percent of students either knew of someone who had or had personally received a robust refund check and failed to spend it in a "financially smart" manner.

Many students admitted to buying clothes, computers, and paying for rent. In one case, a student admitted buying a used car for \$8,000.

Not every student, however, allows himself the luxury of being a spendthrift.

"My parents pay my tuition, with the help of one scholarship," said one student, "so because of the expensiveness of the school, I don't get a lot of money every month. I mean I do have work-study, so that helps.

On average, I get about \$140 from work-study monthly and maybe \$50 from my family back in Tennessee.

All is gone after a hair cut, groceries, and other living expenses. I rarely use it for clothes."

Testimony of the free spending habits of Morehouse students has also come from other avenues—although by no means are these complaints.

Night after night, cars neon lighted with Wingzone Chicken and Papa John's Pizza signs make their trek through the campus.

"We get at least 10 orders from Morehouse alone every night," says Wingzone delivery clerk Pam. "It's like they just don't know to how to make a peanut-butter and jelly sandwich anymore."

With the Middies



PHOTO: ROBERT GAINES/STAFF

Mariel Featherstone

At 5.30 in the morning, I would usually never even dream about waking up and starting my day. As I started getting ready to go to campus, I asked myself, "How can people get up this early on a regular basis?" As I rushed onto Morehouse campus on that cold, dark morning, still half asleep, I was met by the warm smile of freshman, Midshipman (Midn.) Marques Brown. I looked at Brown strangely at first; even at that early hour, he seemed to have been up for hours.

Wearing his nicely pressed uniform, he asked, "Are you ready?" As the sleep still present in my body started to leave, I said, "Of course. We have to hurry. I don't want to make us late." So, Brown and I rushed to Nabrit-Mapp-McBay Hall.

So began my adventure spending a day with the Navy ROTC.

We arrived at Nabrit promptly at 6.15, just in time for physical training. When I looked around, I saw the bright faces of students eagerly waiting to get started. When I saw the work ethic of these students, I suddenly developed a new type of respect for people in the AUC involved in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. Like Brown, the other students were in their uniforms. As I

watched, I wondered if I could ever really be in ROTC. I imagined myself doing the same thing the others were doing. Even though, I thought to myself, I may not be ROTC material, I still want to find out more about the program that many students seem to enjoy and love. Like many other students in the AUC, I did not know much about the program. I felt, however, that anything worth getting up before sunrise was worth taking a look-see.

After reporting for duty, the members have to practice their drills. As I watched them practicing, I wondered again why they had so much commitment and love for the ROTC program. Besides having to rise early in the morning, they are involved in rigorous physical training and are required to take classes such as Calculus and Physics. To most students, being required to swim on at least a third-class level and sitting in a classroom, to learn about Bernoulli's equation does not sound like any idea of fun. However, the midshipmen realize the many positives of the program.

There are, of course, the practical advantages. Those on ROTC scholarships are provided with full tuition and room and board for four years and get a book stipend at the beginning of each semester, as well as a monthly stipend. The students also realize that they are being provided with optimal training for their future careers. After graduation, those on scholarship are required to

serve in the military. Midn. 3/C Carrington Britt, a sophomore at Morehouse College, is very excited about the opportunity to serve in the military. He believes an opportunity to serve in the military is "a job guaranteed after graduation. Every college student isn't guaranteed that."

Students in the program are required to keep at least a 3.0 GPA and to pass all of their physical training tests in order to keep their scholarships. Therefore, the students are provided with tutors and are required to attend mandatory study sessions. They also benefit from built-in support systems. The upperclassmen are always ready and available to provide additional help and advice to the underclassmen.

Having a sense of family is one of the things Marques Brown appreciates about ROTC. However, as the basis of his involvement with the ROTC, Brown states, "I love ROTC because I love the military." Because his father and grandfather were involved in the military, he says that he has "always had a military life." An alumnus of the Young Marines and the Junior ROTC, Brown is firmly dedicated to the program and it is easy to understand why ROTC is a part of him.

After that morning of training and talking (they doing the training, me the talking), I decided to attend a session of Naval Orientation with Marques. The class centers on teaching the students the history of the Navy, Naval

guidelines, and military courtesies. Lieutenant Everette Entzminger conducts the class. One can tell that Entzminger truly cares about his students and wants to instill in them pride, knowledge, and determination. As L. Entzminger went over a quiz with students, Brown and others assisted me in learning some naval terminology.

Following the class, I was able to interact more freely with the midshipmen. One of the main things I noticed about the students was that they are very proud to be in the program and have a very strong sense of pride for ROTC and the Services. Brown believes that it is important for members of ROTC to be leaders among other students: "We must maintain a standard everywhere we go, even if we are out of uniform."

The sense of family in the group is astounding. The students are all very close and help each other with academics, information about the Services, and the everyday issues that life presents each of us.

Some have even planned to join the Services together in order to work with each other after they graduate. Midn. 4/C Justan Caesar affirmed, "We are a tight-knit group, always joking and playing around. I can rely on these guys."

Many of the participants stated that the ROTC is a "brotherhood," but this term forgets that there are also many young women in the program. Midn. Sakiyna Washington believes that femininity is actively downplayed in the ROTC. "They don't want you to be feminine or cute. They don't want to be reminded that you are a girl."

Midn. 4/C Patrice Darden agreed: "The girls are outnumbered and the program is male oriented. You have to try to be one of the guys and still be a girl."

After Naval Orientation, Brown took me to the Unit. The Unit was established for the participants to visit their leaders, study, or relax with each other. Classrooms, computer labs, and a TV lounge are some of the features of the Unit. The Unit also displays some of the rich history of the ROTC program in the AUC. Quiet relaxation for the end of a day much longer than the average college student's.

Upon leaving the Unit, I had a better understanding and a new appreciation for the ROTC program. The program is more than students learning to march and salute. The program is about preparation for the future and learning how to focus on goals, and it is also a gateway for student to enter into college. As Midn. Daniel Edwards explained, "We need a program like ROTC to lead young Blacks. It teaches us discipline and order, the instructors do a good job mentoring to us, and the Unit is like our home."

WE STILL LOVE CARTOONS

Mariel Featherstone

Remember those great Saturday mornings when you did not have a care in the world? The first thing you did was jump out of bed, get ready for breakfast, and grab your favorite cereal in hopes of reaching the bottom of the box to claim the prize. Yes, those good ol' days when the toughest decision you had to make was deciding which cartoon you wanted to watch.

For some of us, the experience of a Saturday morning filled with animated friends is but a fond memory. For some others, however, it's still the weekly deal. In any event, everyone's still, at some level, a cartoony kid at heart. The *Maroon Tiger* decided a little test was in order to gauge the extent to which students at Morehouse and Spelman still hold toonescence dear.

Unforgettable characters, original storylines, and, of course, the ability of a show to make us

laugh are elements that make a cartoon worth watching in our minds. However, we usually forget about the importance of the theme song. The theme song is usually a story put to music that tells us what the show is about, and a good theme song is one you will still remember years later. For example, we at the Features Desk still remember the words or tunes to *The Chipmunks*, *Ducktales*, *Darkwing Duck* and *Doug*. In order to test the effectiveness of a very popular modern theme song, my first question to a pool of thirty students (half Morehouse, half Spelman) was:

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?

Of course, we all know from listening to the catchy theme song that *SpongeBob SquarePants* is that fellow, and absorbent and yellow and porous is he. Ten Spelman students and three Morehouse students answered correctly. *SpongeBob SquarePants* is a favorite among many college students across the

country, which is why it was no surprise that most students could actually sing the whole theme song to this show.

Next, the meat of the matter: *how many students still watch cartoons regularly?*

Thirteen Spelmanites and ten Morehouse students rang in.

Cartoons are clearly a part of these and many other students' lives. Many watch cartoons everyday or at least once a week. In December of 2002, *The Seattle-Post Intelligencer* reported that a third of the audience of the cable Cartoon Network is adults. A sizeable portion of that audience are in college. Because of the large number of adults viewers, the Cartoon Network has launched more shows geared toward this audience. It can be clearly seen that this population is a very important factor in generating animated shows.

Of course, we all had a favorite cartoon show when we were kids, and some still have their

favorite shows now. So, the next question: *what were the favorites of yesteryear and today?* For Spelman, the answers volunteered were *Smurfs*, *Jem*, and *Garfield*. Morehouse students' past favorite cartoons included *Thundercats*, *X-men*, and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. Nowadays, Spelman students enjoy *Recess*, *Proud Family*, and *SpongeBob*. Morehouse guys see eye-to-eye with their sisters on *Recess*, but cite *Ren and Stimpy* and *Dexter's Lab* as new favorites.

As students, we are usually concerned with staying up-to-date with the latest trends. With the rise of cartoon clothing and accessories being worn by college students, the last question asked, "What types of clothing do you have with cartoon characters on them?"

The Spelman students have t-shirts with Tweety, Arthur, Carebears, and the Power Puff Girls. Some also have bags with Mickey Mouse and the Power Puff Girls. Morehouse students own *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* t-shirts and

jackets, Scooby Doo boxers, and Transformers t-shirts.

The survey concludes that cartoons are still important in many of our lives. Many of us have not outgrown and are not planning to outgrow those Saturday mornings of yore. Kiley Graves, a Junior Biology major at Spelman, ventured that cartoons "make me feel good. They bring back wonderful childhood memories." Foster Hurt II, a Sophomore Business Marketing and Management major, agreed that cartoons are part of his television watching schedule. He enjoys cartoons because "they are something different to watch."

Cartoons take us back to times when the world was simple, when GREs and internships weren't considerations, when parents paid all the bills. The truth is that most of us still believe cartoons to be quality television and we simply love them. No matter what others say, we are not letting them go anytime soon.

Sportsweekly



Kyle Yeldell

The Inside Scoop

Mad for March's Mysteries

Since 11:59pm on February 29th, basketball fans the world alike have been immersed in the best month of the year. It is the month where prestige is thrown out of the window and hit by a bus, and substituted by heart, desire and precision.

This month has been known to drive folks crazy, hence the term "March Madness".

It's here in full swing, ladies and gentlemen. And it's already starting to drive us mad.

There is *always* a Cinderella story in the NCAA Tournament. Some underrated team gets to wear the glass slipper for a while and exits the gala with new found admiration.

However, this tournament didn't start out that way in the first round. The stories of Jameer Nelson and St. Joseph's, Emeka Okafor, Stanford's superb season, and Maryland's ACC Tournament win over Duke filled the sports pages and stations.

In the first round, each of those stories continued as they made it to the second round. In fact, there were only four upsets in the entire first round: #9 University of Alabama-Birmingham, #10 Nevada, #12 Pacific and #12 Manhattan.

In prior years, there were more upsets in the first round. With all of the games going as predicted in the first round, it was the general consensus that the second round would follow suit.

The general consensus couldn't have gotten it more wrong. Kentucky, most people's choice to make it to the Final Four, bowed out to UAB, 76-75. Stanford, who many thought were overrated yet still in many people's mind an Elite 8 squad, lost to Alabama, 70-67.

As the proctor of my own March Madness pool, *no one* had Alabama or UAB going to the Sweet 16, and most didn't have St. Joe's in there either.

I personally had Cincinnati beating Illinois, and NC State beating Western Michigan to go to the Sweet 16. However, Illinois destroyed the Bearcats, 92-68, and Western Michigan lost to Vanderbilt, 71-58, in the first round and then beat NC State, 75-73 in the second round.

It got personal when Syracuse beat my Maryland Terrapins, 72-70, when DJ. Strawberry just hoisted this awful, lean-away jumper to win it. I had the Terps going to the Elite 8 to face Connecticut.

My Final Four is still intact with Georgia Tech, Pittsburgh, Duke and Connecticut still in it. This upcoming Pitt-Oklahoma State match up is a regional final type of game with both teams receiving lower seeds than they deserved. The winner of that game is going to play in the National Championship, in my opinion.

This is all my opinion, for that is what is most important about this time of year. "Bracketology" is a one-month class in which money and pride are the rewards, as opposed to a grade. People have study sessions, cram before their take-home test, send it in when they are fully content with their knowledge, and then check their "mid-term" grade online every day to track how they are doing. This sounds like a course to me.

Every year it is the same thing. As sports fans, we like to speculate these things; it gives us validation for all of those long hours we spent studying *Sportscenter* and *College Gamenight*. Like every year, there is now a Cinderella: UAB. Actually, the state of Alabama right now is at the ball, getting down on the good foot. Alabama actually has a good chance to beat Syracuse.

Many people will be angry if their brackets get messed up, but remember, it is *March Madness*. This is exactly why I, and everyone else, will be doing it all over again next year.

Kyle "Scoop" Yeldell, '05, is a staff columnist.

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Scoop can also be reached by telephone at (404) 614-6041. His column will return next week.

Tigers: Bartlett, Copeland rack up four homers and a grand slam

Story continued from page 1

The Tigers themselves hit five homers: three by Marquis Bartlett (giving him six on the season) and two by Gary Copeland (3 HRs). The fireworks started early in the first inning as Copeland hit a four-run blast out of the park. The Tigers then built a seven-run lead going into the seventh inning, when the Panthers finally opened the floodgates.

CAU went on a tear, scoring eight runs in the 7th and 8th innings to get back to within one run of the Tigers.

However, Morehouse buckled down as the ace of the pitching staff, Ruben Dupree (5-1), closed the game to earn his first save of the season. The game ended on a great play as catcher Jaret Hudson picked off a CAU runner

at third base.

The Tigers came out hungry and improved their record to 8-4 in the division and 8-14 overall. Now on a three game winning streak, the Tigers will head to Payne this weekend looking to continue their ascent in the divisional standings. With this game behind them, the Tigers can now see the weaknesses that need to be addressed prior to important upcoming games.

Injuries also hurt the team, forcing players to play outside of their usual positions. A knuckle injury incurred by third baseman Jarret Roby caused the Tigers to use three different third basemen during the game. Nevertheless, in the absence of players, the Tigers showed

their strengths.

"If we stay focused, then we should do well," said Copeland.

He also commented on the youth of the team, with most of the current players being freshmen and sophomores.

Aaron Dowell, a Los Angeles native, added, "We have just as much talent as every other team in the division from top to bottom." This game proved that, even in the face of adversity, the Tigers can win; the team demonstrated maturity in pulling out the victory.

A great game with a smorgasboard of offense, a wild finish, and a win for the Morehouse Tigers on a beautiful Sunday; what more could you want?

Directions to the home games at Perkinson Park

Take Lee St to Sylvan Rd

Make a left on Sylvan Rd to Deckner

Perkinson Park will be on your right

side

**SUPPORT
THE TIGERS
BASEBALL TEAM.**

Basketball season in retrospect

Kyle "Scoop" Yeldell

The Morehouse basketball team (24-7) ended a great season on a sour note, losing in overtime to the SIAC Championship to Benedict, 89-86, and in the NCAA Division II Tournament to Henderson State, 71-51.

Despite the season's disappointing end, there were some bright moments for the team. Guards Darius Wade and Brandon Childs, and forward Ronald Thompson were named to the All-SIAC Tournament team. Thompson received the Tournament Sportsmanship Award.

The saying goes, "Hindsight is 20/20", and in that spirit, here's a recap and analysis of how the team played throughout the 2003-04 season:

The lineups were mixed around a lot this season, but it was clear that when Brandon Childs and Darius Wade were on the court together, the team clicked. Wade, a pure point guard with great presence and skill, didn't take over games like he could (which is usually every single time he touched the ball.)

It was evident that when he stepped on the court, a sense of maturity permeated throughout the team. However, he was very turnover prone and made a lot of simple mistakes.

But, when the game got tight, his game got tighter, and he was many times the leader by example.

Childs was the prototypical combination guard. He could play the point, as well as the shooting guard position, but his true position is scorer. He could score in various ways: driving through the lane, weaving through tall defenders, or stepping back from the land of trifecta and making teams pay threefold.

Despite the intimidating talent of Wade and Childs, Brian Fitch never missed a beat when he came in. If the team was hungry for points, Fitch made the dishes; if they need a big shot, Fitch loaded his cannon. He did everything



Guard Brandon Childs handles the ball just beyond the perimeter. (FILE PHOTO)

in moderation, but was precise nevertheless. Anthony Locke was a steady point guard who knew how to distribute. He didn't score well, but he knew how to maintain a tempo. Michael Griffin gave the Tigers the same tempo, but presented a nice touch from outside.

The frontcourt was absolutely laden with talent. Steve Walters is a world-class athlete

with his 6'8 frame. He moved like an impala, had the timing of a Rolex on his blocked shots, and was equipped with more hops than a rabbit. The SIAC offered nothing to defend him, except himself, for his lack of outside shot was what kept him from utterly dominating the field.

Ronald Thompson was the quiet assassin for the Maroon Tigers. Many spectators

knew "Slim" was good, but very few realized the complete effect he had on the team. He led Morehouse in scoring (15.4), rebounds (9.4), steals (1.8), blocks (1.9) and field-goal percentage (58%).

He too ran like the wind, but lacked quickness with the ball in his hands. Thompson did know how to finish in the paint and react for rebounds.

The secret weapon in the frontcourt was Jason Patterson. He had a soft touch from the field, a nice handle, and went into attack mode on rebounds when near the basket. He made an example out of many defenders as he would soar from out of their line-of-sight and finish the play with a nice dunk or tough lay-up. His 9.1 scoring average was not an accurate indicator of his scoring ability and will definitely increase next season.

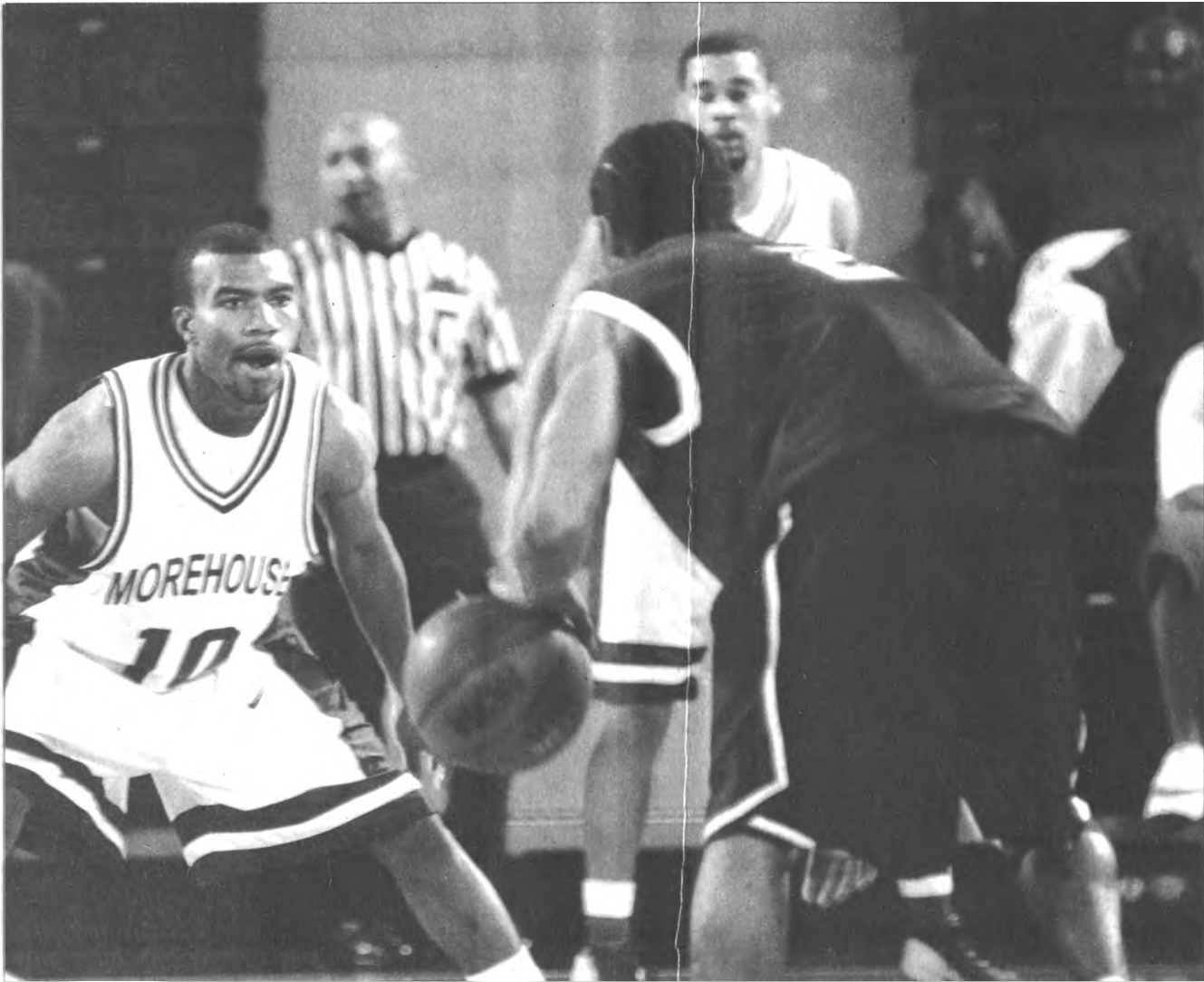
Gerald Cannon and Ian Salandy were the bona fide post men for the Tigers. Cannon offered good size and presence in the paint, while Salandy was the efficient rebounder and finisher.

Ahmad Loving didn't have the footwork or quickness of his counterparts, and Jason Cornelius, who is a nationally-ranked high-jumper, was effective because of his athleticism. However, each was a good option at center and power forward, respectively, for the Tigers.

With the entire frontcourt gone, except for Walters and Patterson, fan favorite Jason Mercer has to step it up tremendously in the offseason in order to fill the void.

The backcourt is coming back strong, with Childs, Fitch, Locke, and possibly Wade, whose return is not guaranteed, the team has some bright points, but some obvious concerns.

The Tigers will have to wait until November to show fans, again, what they are made of.



Guard Anthony Locke stares down opponent in the first round of the NCAA Division II Tournament. (FILE PHOTO)